

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Criminal Investigation Division  
Investigative Activity Report**

**Case Number**

1000-M431

**Case Title:**

Hanford / Perma-Fix

**Reporting Office:**

Seattle, WA, Area Office

**Subject of Report:**

20121212 Interview of [REDACTED] of Washington Department of Ecology.

**Activity Date:**

December 12, 2012

**Reporting Official and Date:**

[REDACTED]

Special Agent

26-DEC-2012, Signed by [REDACTED]

**Approving Official and Date:**

[REDACTED]

Special Agent in Charge

26-DEC-2012, Approved by [REDACTED]

**SYNOPSIS**

On December 12, 2012, SA Stratton interviewed [REDACTED] via telephone at (509) [REDACTED] in regards to [REDACTED] knowledge of the alleged spill by Permafix.

**DETAILS**

On December 12, 2012, I interviewed [REDACTED] via telephone at (509) [REDACTED] in regards to [REDACTED] knowledge of the alleged spill by Permafix. After being notified of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the interview, [REDACTED], in substance, provided the following information:

In approximately April of 2012, [REDACTED] and Cathy Conaway, a Washington Department of Ecology Compliance Lead, were inspecting Permafix as part of a routine inspection for waste handling practices. During the compliance inspection they found out that Permafix was not required to follow Department of Transportation regulations, even though the waste product was traveling on public roads.

Shortly after this inspection [REDACTED] learned of a possible spill at the Central Waste Complex involving a leaking containment box. A Lead Inspector from Washington State, Kerry Graham, was brought in to review the spill and Permafix's immediate action response. It was discovered that an 80,000 pound container was brought in to the Permafix facility and Permafix was working on treatment of drums that were leaking. These containers were received from the Hanford complex. During this time it was discovered that the material was being "aired out" as normally directed by Washington Department of Ecology. However, Permafix does not have a permit or approval for this type of activity.

Permafix officials gave the inspectors a tour which included photos of the drums airing out. The inspectors were offered both photos and video of the cleanup, but never received them. The officials explained that they do not send any waste back to Hanford, no matter what condition the containers are in when they arrive at Permafix. The officials explained that the Permafix "fixes" any problems with Hanford materials.

In approximately May of 2012, [REDACTED] spoke with Sean Murphy of the Washington Department of Health regarding the transportation of the drums. Murphy explained that Permafix called him regarding the same leaking drums, which had damaged some of the concrete in the Permafix facility. The company assured that the leak was cleaned up and the concrete that was damaged had been

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replaced.

Paperwork which accompanied the drums was traced back to the Hanford site and was deemed to be "hot" from its inception, yet transferred anyway. The paperwork stated that the contents of the containers were "liquid debris", but in reality it was determined that the content of the barrels was plutonium nitrate.

■ knows a Permafix employee resigned right after this spill and ■ believes that EPA CID should contact this person.

■ knows that Kerry Graham wrote a report about this incident and sent ■ a copy for ■ Permafix file. ■ believes that there has been a cover up of this spill.

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